

Surely brethren we are wise enough to know and can agree that our worship is a weekly religious duty (John 4:24; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2), that must not be allowed to flow in the direction of the theatrical. When we gather for worship it must not be **to be seen** of people.

Likewise, I hope you will consider how remarkably relevant these thoughts are to the current state of things in the religious/denominational world around us. Where just about anything and everything is engaged in for the purpose of attracting a crowd. And at the same time, let me state the obvious — In some areas of the brother-hood (1 Peter 2:17), worship has likewise devolved into a variety of theatrical displays and turned that worship into a spectator sport. The very thing spoken against by Jesus Christ right here in Matthew 6:1.

Handclapping, praise teams, solos and choirs, religious drama, instrumental music and other unauthorized activities have found their way into the worship of some churches. Saying these items have found their way into some churches, is a bit of an understatement. Truly, they have been willingly ushered in onto the red carpet of worship by brethren eager to satisfy their own selfish desires. In Colossians 2:23, the apostle Paul calls this kind of activity “will worship”. And frankly, “will worship” is nothing more than “worship which one devises and prescribes for himself”. But the solemn worship of our God (Philippians 3:3), is not the place for unbiblical musical forms, pom-poms, or face paint.

Wayne Jackson expressed our heart’s desire when he wrote these words. “May the Lord help us to be satisfied with the simplicity of the New Testament plan of worship wherein each person, as a priest of God, offers his/her sacrifice of praise to the Creator (Hebrews 13:15).” 4 So away with entertainment-style performances, and in with worshipping “the Lord in the beauty of holiness” (Psalm 29:2).

Mel Futrell, thechurch@shadesmountaincoc.org

Those requesting prayer

Grant Killion, Carol Killion, Frances Hagar, Martha Spikes Rampey, Richard Rapert, Shirley Dixon, Nick VanAkin. Gert Jacobson, David Dement.
Remember all the shut-ins and those in the nursing homes.

January 13, 2019

THIS WEEK'S RADIO LESSONS

on KPOC:

Sun: The Conversion of the Samaritans

Mon: Dead Man Walking

Tue: Why Be Baptized

Wed: God Rules

Thu: Complaint or Compliant

Fri: A Reed Shaken

Remember the shut-ins and those in the nursing home with a visit, call, or card. Also remember them in prayer

Residential

Jenafee Brunner, 1502 W Pyburn

Pocahontas Health and Rehab

Mary Sue Greer, 601

Randolph County Nursing Home

Elsie Prewitt, 106

Earl Hagar, 109

Jennifer Burr, 204

Charlcie Hufstедler, 223

Anna Lemmons, 332

Bonnie Kellett, 335

Gwen Futrell, 419

BULLETIN INFO:

Please give “News and Events” to **Tom and Carolyn Towell**. You can call 892-5087, 870-930-7344 or 870-930-7355 and leave a message. Email address is tctowell@centurytel.net

ITEMS for January

CHILDREN'S HOME

Gallon/Quart Storage Bags

UKRAINE MISSION

Sock/Gloves

NEWS AND EVENTS

Mary Stormes is at home suffering with the shingles.

David Dement spent a night in the hospital last week having heart testing. The tests all came back good, but he will be seeing other specialists this week.

Barbara Grimsby's grandson, Nick VanAkin, is waiting to hear from his cardiologist for heart complications after surgery on his shoulder.

Sue Gazaway got a good report from the neurologist in Little Rock after having a MRI and CT scan last week and the finding a small mass on her brain. She will be getting checkups every three months.

Remember next Sunday night, January 20, Josh will begin a **question/answer session**.

BREAKFAST—Ladies don't forget the men are cooking breakfast for you this Saturday, January 19 at 8:30 in the basement here at the building. Let Don McGuirt know (if you haven't already) that you plan to be there.

Plan of Salvation

Hear – Romans 10:17 “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God”.

Believe – John 8:24 “I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins”.

Repent – Luke 13:3 “I tell you, nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish”.

Confess – Romans 10:10 “For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation”.

Be Baptized – I Peter 3:21 “The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us, not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ”.

Local Missions

KPOC 104.1 FM–RADIO PROGRAMS

Sunday morning @ 8:00 AM
Mon. – Fri. @ 6:15, 11:55, & 4:55

IN SEARCH OF THE LORD’S WAY

Sunday-7:30 AM on Cable 13 (Memphis)
Sunday-7:30 AM on Cable 4 (Little Rock)
Sunday-7:30 AM on Direct Channel 367

SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE

Sunday-9:00 AM on Cable 9 (KAIT 8)

PREACHING THE GOSPEL

Sunday-6:30 AM on Dish Channel 267

World Missions

Ted Knight, Romania
John Reese, World Bible School, Africa
Eddie Cloer, Truth for Today
Ted Lingren, Cambodia

Website—
www.pyburnstreetchurchofchrist.com

January 13, 2019

Announcements: Mike Dunn
Song Leader: Tom Towell
Speaker: Joshua Dement
AM Sermon: The Newborn Church
Scripture: Acts 2:42-47
PM: Things That Save
Presiding at Table
Joey Bryant

East	West
Mike Dunn	Jay Don Wilson
Arkie Pierce	David Burkheart

Sunday Evening: David Futrell

Sunday Morning Worship

First Prayer David Futrell
Closing Prayer: David Lemmons
Read Scripture: Jay Don Wilson

Sunday Evening Worship

First Prayer: Don McGuirt
Closing Prayer David Burkheart

Wednesday Night (January 16)

First Prayer Ed Stormes
Closing Prayer Joey Bryant
Invitation Josh Dement

Preparation of Communion for January

David and Cindy Futrell

Sunday Services

Bible Study 9:00 AM
Worship 9:50 AM
Evening Service 6:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 PM

Mats for Haiti Wed not scheduled this week
Ladies Bible Class Wed 10:30am

Elders

David Futrell 870-378-3513
Tom Towell 870-892-5087

Minister

Joshua Dement 870-378-5551

WELCOME VISITORS!!

We appreciate our visitors and encourage you to fill out a “Visitor’s Card” located on the back of the pew in front of you.

January Birthdays

Rodney Shultz--3
Johnathan Shultz--4
Melba Creach--7
Leroy Crutcher --7
David Futrell--9
Shirley Dixon--10
Cona Dionysius--17
Don McGuirt--22
Melissa Turner--31

In the Footsteps of Jesus

Pyburn Street church of Christ

305 Pyburn Street, P.O. Box 187, Pocahontas, AR 72455
870-892-5596

January 13, 2019

Worship Is Not Theater

A recent event I attended further cemented in my mind what I believe I have known and preached all my life — worship is not and was never intended to be theater. There is, no doubt, a place for theater, but it’s not in the worship of God. Repeatedly I kept recalling the sobering language of the Lord in Matthew 6:1, “Take heed that ye do not your righteousness before men to be seen of them, else ye have no reward with your Father who is in Heaven” (ASV). Of immediate interest to us all should be the wording “to be seen”, which is from a single Greek word *theathenai*. The late language authority Ralph Earle offered this wonderfully revealing comment on this term:

“From this verb comes the noun theatron, ‘theater’. What Jesus is saying is: ‘Don’t make a theatrical show of your religious activity...We might say, Don’t parade your piety’”

Jesus is here clearly and openly condemning the practice of righteousness, which would include worship, as being a theatrical performance. Another commentator, R.T. France, rightly concluded this about the verse from Jesus:

“Religious observance is to be directed towards God, not to gaining the approval of men...But what is condemned here is ostentation, particularly in the practice of religious duties.”(con’t)